

LOSS IN THE BOSTON FIRE.

NOW ESTIMATED TO BE NOT FAR FROM ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

Houghton, Osgood & Co.'s More Valuable Papers and Ledgers Saved—Their Stereotype Plates Safe in their Office in Cambridge.

BOSTON, Dec. 29.—The fire last night was the most disastrous this city has seen since the conflagration of 1872. It destroyed one of the finest blocks of buildings in the very heart of the business region of the city. They were within the old burned district, and hence almost new. The fire was discovered at 11 o'clock. The whole interior of the second story of the five-story granite building in Federal street, occupied by Rice, Kendall & Co., paper manufacturers, was already a mass of flames at that time. The fire made rapid progress, and when the first engine arrived the flames had mounted to the third story, occupied by D. Faulkner, wool broker. The firemen made a vigorous attack upon the burning building, and in ten minutes from the time that the first alarm was sent out nine engines were pouring a flood of water into the several stories. The flames continued to advance, however, and when the firemen drove back from the windows to the street, the firemen were racing against time to save what could be saved, although the Court sat and waited patiently for a long time. Then Justice Kassner, usually not a hasty man, was very angry, and ordered Mr. H. H. Humphreys, his law clerk, to go to his surviving brothers and sisters, excepting John Jacob Astor and William Astor, and Charles F. Southwick, Franklin H. Delano, and James E. Chamberlain, trustees of the interest of Henry Astor in the premises; Henry Astor and his wife, Molvins; Franklin Jr., and his wife, Alida; Charlotte Augusta Astor, wife of William Astor; and thirteen others, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren of the late William B. Astor, are made defendants. The trial will be held on the 24th of January, 1880. The late Jacob Astor conveyed those premises to his son, William B. Astor, for life, to go to his death to such of his descendants as he might choose, and to his heirs, and to their heirs and assigns forever. When William B. Astor died—Nov. 24, 1875—three sons survived, John Jacob, William, and Harry Astor. On the 1st of February, 1876, it was agreed before Mr. Astor's death, Henry Astor executed a trust deed conveying his interest in the premises to his surviving brothers and sisters, excepting John Jacob Astor and William Astor, and to their heirs and assigns forever, providing that the proceeds be applied to his own use during his lifetime, and at his death, if he had no surviving issue, to his brothers and sisters, excepting John Jacob Astor and William Astor, and to their heirs and assigns forever, and not per capita. John Jacob and William Astor resigned their trusteeship in 1872, and the other two brothers, Harry and Frank, sold with much more favorably the suggestion of Mr. S. Hornfischer, who represents the District Attorney of Richmond, that an attachment be made to the property of Mr. Humphreys' estate for contempt of court.

The attachment was quickly made out, the Justices of the Court having agreed to let it stand in view of the circumstances. At 9 o'clock on Saturday night Mr. Humphreys was in custody, and he was brought to the open court as soon as possible. The trial of the case was adjourned until 10 o'clock. Carl Blake, of Staten Island, waited upon him with a request that he defer the intended examination until Monday morning, so that he might have time to consider the premises, or if this cannot equitably be done, to sell them and divide the proceeds.

THE ASTOR HOUSE PROPERTY.

Forty of the Heirs to the Astor Estate Want a Division or Sale.

Among the persons upon whom Mr. Samuel Brick, the defeated Democratic candidate for Assemblyman of Richmond County, relies to prove that his Republican opponent, ex-United States Marshal Oliver Fiske, owes his success to the purchase of the votes of some of the inmates of Sailors' Shug Harbor for \$1 and \$2 apiece, are George Wilson Curtis, Robert P. Minutin, Custom House Officer and ex-Judge of the Peace W. W. Corbett, and Editor Humphreys of the Staten Island *Sentinel*. An extra edition of the *Sentinel*, opposing Mr. Brick and favoring Mr. Fiske, was issued on the eve of the election, and circulars similarly directed were printed at the *Sentinel* office. Mr. Humphreys proved to be a most unwilling witness. The subpoena that the constable was instructed to serve upon him failed to reach him for some days. The constable said he was unable to find the editor anywhere. But on Friday he was last successful, and served a subpoena commanding Mr. Humphreys to present himself at the Court house on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. When the court was opened on Saturday morning there was a great throng of Staten Island inhabitants present; a numerous array of lawyers and judges, and a large number of spectators, to their ears and assignees forever. When William B. Astor died—Nov. 24, 1875—three sons survived, John Jacob, William, and Harry Astor. On the 1st of February, 1876, it was agreed before Mr. Astor's death, Henry Astor executed a trust deed conveying his interest in the premises to his surviving brothers and sisters, excepting John Jacob and William Astor, and to their heirs and assigns forever, providing that the proceeds be applied to his own use during his lifetime, and at his death, if he had no surviving issue, to his brothers and sisters, excepting John Jacob Astor and William Astor, and to their heirs and assigns forever, and not per capita. John Jacob and William Astor resigned their trusteeship in 1872, and the other two brothers, Harry and Frank, sold with much more favorably the suggestion of Mr. S. Hornfischer, who represents the District Attorney of Richmond, that an attachment be made to the property of Mr. Humphreys' estate for contempt of court.

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MARKED FOR LIFE.

Miss O'Brien Throwing Vitriol over her Recruit Lover's Head and Face.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29.—Another case of vitriol throwing has occurred in this city. A girl-looking boy, identified as John Blane by name, who dwells at 2 Drury's court, Lombard street, knew Martin O'Brien in Ireland, and induced him some years ago to accompany him to this country. They both obtained employment in this city. Blane was attentive to the girl until recently, when he began to neglect her, and to pay attention to another. He declared to her old sweetheart his intention to marry the new, and she threatened, if he abandoned her, that she would either kill him or mark him to be captured. She accordingly sent him a box containing a quantity of vitriol, which he availed himself of to burn the eyes of his sweetheart. The girl, however, was not injured, but had merely a slight scalding. The boy, however, was severely scalded and flooded with water. Blane, a very printer, suffered an almost total loss of his eyesight. The cost of the damage to the Franklin Building were: The Dillingham Paper Company, \$1,000; S. D. Warren & Co., \$1,000; Frank C. Smith, \$1,000; and the rest of the firm, \$1,000. The building is in stock, and is fully insured. The losses to the owners of the building, and the firm, were about \$4,000 in silver, money, packages, notes, &c., in the vaults of the company, but at 2 A. M. its course had been stayed. Houghton, Osgood & Co., whose building, fronting on Devonshire street, was in the rear of Rice, Kendall & Co.'s, were fortunate in saving their more valuable papers and ledgers. Their unburned books and stereotyped plates are safe at their printing establishment in Cambridge. The managers of the New York and Boston firms, however, lost their entire stock of novelties and goods, which were carried away by their teams. 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